

José Manuel del Pino, editor, *George Ticknor y la fundación del hispanismo en Estados Unidos*. Madrid/Frankfurt, Iberoamericana/Vervuert, 2022. 447 pp.

Years ago I heard a story about the astonishing collection of Spanish books and manuscripts that George Ticknor had begun to amass during a trip through Spain in 1818. Reportedly, he had wanted to leave this immense treasure to Harvard College, where he taught, with the expectation that their riches would be open to all for consultation. Harvard, in its wisdom, told Ticknor that the collection would only be accessible to students of the College, not to the general (unwashed) public. As the tale went, Ticknor pivoted and bequeathed the collection in 1871 (the year of his death) to the Boston Public Library, where it rests today (and, of course, where it is open to all readers, researchers, and students of Spanish history and literature). This story is apocryphal, of course (he founded the Boston Public in 1852 and became one of its first trustees), but it suggests several things about Ticknor's commitment to education, his profound love (and understanding) of Spanish literature, and the important place he occupies in the history of Hispanism in the United States.

The seventeen essays in this book confirm such insights and add a plethora of detail to the story of a man who was the "pionero en el campo del *hispanismo*" and "el fundador de una disciplina" (11). Following a surprisingly brief (and only) trip to Spain in 1818, Ticknor accepted a post in Spanish and French studies at Harvard (Thomas Jefferson offered him a similar position to teach at the University of Virginia), where he taught for years before the publication of his monumental 3-volume *History of Spanish Literature* (1849), which was translated into Spanish soon thereafter by Pascual de Gayangos and Enrique de Vedia. Ticknor's thirst for knowledge (and for books/manuscripts) led him to the salons, classes, and homes of the greatest thinkers of the day: Jefferson, Lafayette, von Humboldt, Madame de Staël, Chateaubriand, Rivas ("uno de los hombres jóvenes más extraordinarios que he encontrado en España" [83]), Moratín, Sir Walter Scott, Gayangos, Richard Ford, Longfellow, Prescott, Sarmiento, Andrés Bello, and a host of others.

Del Pino chronicles how Ticknor fought to establish the history of Spanish literature as an equal to the better known (and more respected) histories of French, German, English, or Italian liter-

atures. R. Adorno discusses Ticknor's intense and fruitful relationship with Thomas Jefferson, who was keen to repopulate the library he had sold to the Library of Congress: "La relación entre estos dos bibliófilos revela dos cosas: por parte de Jefferson, muestra su profundo aprecio por este país, tanto para ampliar los campos de conocimiento como para garantizar el futuro democrático de la nación; por parte de Ticknor, revela su enorme respeto por el juicio y los conocimientos del erudito autor de la Declaración de la Independencia, cuyas esperanzas siempre se orientaban hacia el futuro" (53). A. Martín Ezpeleta reveals how the *Diarios de viaje por España* reflect Herder's belief that "national character" is to be found in a country's literature. I. Lozano-Renieblas proves that Ticknor's *History* played a crucial role in changing the perception of the *Quijote* and allowed Cervantes to occupy a place in the national canon. A. Arriaza Rivera focuses on Ticknor's manuscript of Lope's *El castigo sin venganza*. For T. C. Leigh, the *History* was an exercise in nation building, while M. Mateo reflects on the Gayangos-Vedia translation. S. M. Santiaño also focuses on Gayangos, providing new and interesting information about his collaboration with Ticknor. B. E. Graver looks at Ticknor's views on methodology.

A. Bruzos Moro links Ticknor's ideas on pedagogy with today's ACTFL guidelines, while Iván Jaksic demonstrates that the *Historia* was more warmly received in Hispanoamerica than it was initially in Spain. J. Quintana Navarrete writes of Prescott's *Conquista de América*, R. Kagan reviews the impact of Ticknor's work on what he describes as the "Spanish craze" at the turn of the century (XIX-XX), that is, the growing interest in Spain by artists, editors, tourists, novelists, architects, designers, and musicians. He concludes, "...la *Historia* dotó a la literatura española de una dignidad y un respeto que antes no tenía" (342). A. Medina describes Ticknor's vision for his public library (and the vaults/domes of the Spanish emigrée architect Rafael Guastavino), while three final chapters discuss the life and work of the hispanophile—and author of the poem "America the Beautiful"—Katherine Bates (by C. Ramos), the passionate (and very, very rich) Hispanophile Arthur M. Huntington (by P. Fernández Lorenzo), and the views of Ticknor expressed by Jorge Guillen, based on his 1942 essay, "George Ticknor, Lover of Culture" (A. Soria Olmedo).

With such a singular subject, it is inevitable that various chapters cover some of the same factual ground, but the authors approach Ticknor's life and work from different angles. The book might have profited from an index and a cumulative bibliography, but the contributions prove del Pino's claim that Ticknor (1791–1871) was indeed an “estudioso de las lenguas modernas, bibliófilo, viajero, profesor y pedagogo, historiador de la literatura española, destacado intelectual estadounidense y fundador de la Biblioteca Pública de Boston” (15). No small achievement, indeed.

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